

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6508

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN, IS, SY, EG

SUBJECT: NAC FORMS AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON MIDDLE EAST QUESTION

REF: LIMA 6950

1. NAC CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN PERUVIAN FOREIGN MINISTER DE LA FLOR PROPOSED AT AUGUST 26 EVENING PLENARY SESSION THE FORMATION OF AN AD-HOC COMMITTEE AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL, TO STUDY "PROBLEMS OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE CAUSE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE". THE PROPOSAL ON THIS MOST POTENTIALLY DIVISIVE ISSUE WAS VIGOROUSLY DEBATED BEFORE DE LA FLOR DECLARED A CONSENSUS FOR ITS CREATION. THE AD-HOC COMMITTEE IS TO WORK SEPARATELY FROM BUT IN COORDINATION WITH THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE TO WHICH IT WILL REPORT CONCLUSIONS. POLITICAL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS WILL THEN BE SUBMITTED TO THE PLENARY SESSION.

2. COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE STILL BEING WORKED OUT IN AUGUST 27 MORNING SESSION. DE LA FLOR HAD PROPOSED A 22-MEMBER GROUP BUT WAS MET WITH DEMANDS FROM AFRICANS THAT ADDITIONAL COUNTRIES BE

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INCLUDED.

DE LA FLOR, IN ORDER TO AVOID POLEMICS IN PLENARY SESSION, SAID THAT HE WOULD CONSULT WITH OTHER FOREIGN MINISTERS WHO DESIRED REPRESENTATION ON THE AD-HOC COMMITTEE. CONSULTATIONS TOOK PLACE DURING A RECEPTION OFFERED BY DE LA FLOR THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 26 AND CONTINUED INTO MORNING OF 27TH. NIGERIA HAD ASKED THAT FINAL DECISION BE REACHED AT AUGUST 27 SPECIAL PLENARY SESSION.

3. IN PRINCIPLE THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS INCLUDE ALGERIA, MOROCCO, EGYPT, SYRIA, JORDAN, SAUDI ARABIA, THE PLO, INDIA, SRI LANKA, SOUTH VIETNAM, INDONESIA, CUBA, GUYANA, PANAMA, UPPER VOLTA, GUINEA, UGANDA, SENEGAL, ZAMBIA, YUGOSLAVIA AND PERU. OTHERS HAVE ASKED TO BE INCLUDED.

4. DE LA FLOR PROPOSAL FOLLOWED PLENARY DISCUSSION AT WHICH ALL SPEAKERS INCLUDING THOSE FROM YUGOSLAVIA, SYRIA, MALASIA, LAOS AND SOUTH VIETNAM HAD REFERRED TO OR CONCENTRATED ON THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM. YUGOSLAVIA STATED THAT THE UN CHARTER WAS SUFFICIENT GUARANTEE TO ENSURE ISRAELI COMPLIANCE WITH UN RESOLUTIONS. SYRIA, HOWEVER, STRESSED THE NEED TO EXPEL ISRAEL FROM THE UN AND CLAIMED THAT MEDIATION EFFORTS OF SECRETARY KISSINGER IN THE MIDDLE EAST WOULD RESULT IN A NEW WAR.

5. PERU, YUGOSLAVIA, INDIA AND OTHER "MODERATES" ON THE MIDDLE EAST QUESTION HOPE THAT AD-HOC COMMITTEE WILL IN THE FIRST INSTANCE PREVENT THE ISRAELI EXPULSION ISSUE FROM DOMINATING NAC PLENARY DELIBERATIONS (WHICH IT HAS THUS FAR). SYRIA AND THE PLO WERE LEADING AN EFFORT TO FOCUS NAC ON THIS ISSUE ALONE IN HOPES OF FORCING A STRONG RESOLUTION. THE AD-HOC COMMITTEE, IF SUFFICIENTLY EXPANDED WITH REPRESENTATION FROM AFRICAN "MODERATES", MAY PRODUCE A SOMEWHAT WATERED-DOWN VERSION OF SYRIAN RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL BY FULL CONFERENCE.

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